SECRET \*\*\*\*\*\* CDPV

FLASH

#0052 1251919

Z 051918Z MAY 74 ZYH

FM AMMAN

TO WHITE HOUSE

S E C R E T 051900Z MAY 74

25X1

25X1

MORI/CDF

C03344656

ON-FILE NSC

INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

RELEASE

S E C R E T/SENSITIVE/EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY FLASH HAKTO 42

MAY 5, 1974 TO:

GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FRDM:

THE SECRETARY

1. YOU SHOULD CONTACT SHALEV WITHOUT DELAY AND ASK HIM TO TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO MRS. MEIR FROM ME: QUOTE DEAR MADAME PRIME MINISTER: YOU WILL RECALL THAT IN OUR CONVERSATION I INDICATED TO YOU A TENTATIVE PLAN TO MEET GROMPKO IN CYPRUS ON THURSDAY, THE 9TH. GROMYKO HAS NOW PROPOSED THAT I MEET HIM IN CYPRUS ON MAY 7 OR 8. MY JUDGMENT IS THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR ME TO MEET HIM ON THE 7TH. SEVERAL CONSIDERATIONS LEAD ME TO THIS CONCLUSION. BY AGREEING TO THE 7TH IT WOULD GET GROMYKD DUT OF State Dept. review completed

DAMASCUS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. SHOULD I GO TO DAMASCUS ON TUESDAY -- THE ALTERNATIVE COURSE -- IT INCREASES THE DANGER

THAT HE WOULD BE THERE AT THE SAME TIME EVEN THOUGH I WOULD NOT BE MEETING WITH HIM. MOREOVER, IF I MEET HIM ON TUESDAY IN CYPRUS I WOULD BE ABLE TO TELL HIM THAT I DO NOT HAVE AS YET A FINAL ISRAELI

POSITION, AND I COULD THEREBY AVOID GIVING HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO PRESS ME ON THE BASIS OF A CONCRETE POSITION. IN SHORT THIS WOULD GIVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO TELL HIM AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE ON TUESDAY. BY CONTRAST IF I SEE HIM AFTER I HAVE BEEN TO DAMASCUS HE WOULD EMERGE AS THE SYRIAN SPOKESMAN. IN ADDITION, IF YOU COULD

CALL A CABINET MEETING ON TUESDAY MORNING WHILE I AM SEEING GROMYKO IT WOULD HELP REINFORCE THE FACT THAT YOU HAD NOT REACHED A FINAL DECISION.

WE CAN DISCUSS THIS TOMORROW IN JERUSALEM. HOPEFULLY, GROMYKO WOULD RETURN TO MOSCOW FROM CYPRUS. IN ANY EVENTS I KNOW YOU AGREE WITH THE IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING A SITUATION WHICH WOULD GIVE HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTERVENE DIRECTLY AS AN ADVOCATE OF THE SYRIAN POSITION WHICH IS MORE LIKELY IF I HAD BEEN IN DAMASCUS BEFORE AND HE HAS LEARNED THE RESULT OF MY DAMASCUS VISIT WHILE STILL NEAR TO THE AREA.

I WOULD PLAN TO PROCEED IN THIS WAY UNLESS YOU HAVE STRONG

\* \*WHSR COMMENT \* \*

SCOWCROFT, MCFARLANE, SEC FLE

PSN:031616 PAGE 01

TOR:125/19:25Z DTG:051918Z MAY 74

\*\*\*\*\*\* COPY

SECRET

\*\*\*\*\* S E C R E T \*\*\*\*\*\* CD

VIEWS TO THE CONTRARY. ON THE BASIS OF THE ABOVE PLAN, I WOULD RETURN TO ISRAEL TUESDAY AFTERNOON FROM CYPRUS AND FLY TO DAMASCUS WEDNESDAY MORNING. WE CAN DISCUSS ALL THIS WHEN I RETURN TO JERUSALEM TOMORROW AFTERNOON. IF YOU HAVE ANY STRONG VIEWS PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH ME THROUGH WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY. WARM REGARDS END QUOTE

2. REQUEST FLASH NOTIFICATION UPON DELIVERY OF MESSAGE.

3. WARM REGARDS.

PSN:031616 PAGE 02 DF 02 TUR:125/19:25Z DTG:051918Z MAY 74